

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 4-8, 11, 16-19, 22-25, 27, 28, 33, 36, 41, 44, 45, 48, 51-56, 58-62, 64-70, and 73-77. Claims 10, 15, 57, and 63 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 11-14, 16-56, 58-62, and 64-77 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Examiner Objections - Specification

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract because the term "(Fig. 3)" should be deleted. The Applicants have amended the abstract to delete "(Fig. 3)" and to delete other unnecessary verbiage. The Examiner's approval of the amended abstract is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

In paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 57 because it is a computer program per se. The Applicants have canceled claim 57.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In paragraphs 5-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, several elements preceded by the word "the" had no antecedent basis. Claim 10 has been canceled, and its limitations have been incorporated into base claim 1. The Applicants have amended claim 27 to replace "the" with "a" or "an" as appropriate. Therefore, the withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner suggested that the Applicant remove the term "adapted to" from the claims. The Applicant has amended the claims to remove the term "adapted to".

5.) Claim Rejections – Double Patenting

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-77 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,826,198. The present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,826,198 are commonly owned by the Assignee, Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson (publ). The present application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent No. 6,826,198. An assignment, which assigns ownership to the Assignee of U.S. Patent No. 6,826,198 and all continuing applications, was recorded in the USPTO on April 27, 2001, at reel/frame 011761/0788.

The Applicants have filed a Terminal Disclaimer herewith to overcome this rejection. An authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1379 for the Terminal Disclaimer fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.20(d) is enclosed.

6.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In paragraphs 9-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 11, 16, 57, 62 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gobbi, et al. (US 2002/0044558). Claim 57 has been canceled. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, 16, and 62 to better distinguish the claimed invention from Gobbi. The Applicants respectfully disagree with respect to claim 65. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of canceled claim 10, as amended to overcome the § 112 rejection. Claim 10 was not rejected in view of Gobbi. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of canceled claim 15. Claim 15 was not rejected in view of Gobbi. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of canceled claim 10. Claim 10 was not rejected in view of Gobbi. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 16 is respectfully requested.

Claim 62 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of canceled claim 63. Claim 63 was not rejected in view of Gobbi. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 62 is respectfully requested.

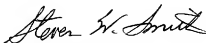
Claim 65 recites that the name mapping unit includes a fault management unit for detecting an inoperative peer signaling association and/or an inoperative signaling transport address in a peer signaling association and for selecting another signaling transport address under the same signaling target node name. Gobbi does not teach or suggest such a fault management unit. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claim 65 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-9, 11-14, 16-56, 58-62, and 64-77.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven W. Smith
Registration No. 36,684

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Ericsson Inc.
6300 Legacy Drive, M/S EVR 1-C-11
Plano, Texas 75024

(972) 583-1572
steve.xl.smith@ericsson.com